

Above all, what made Henry special was his character. He stood up to bigotry and prejudice. I recall him saying to me how misguided he thought it was that a local politician was running a homophobic campaign. This was a bold position to take at the time, but this statement has stuck with me, throughout my life and career, as a mark of his character.

While Henry may no longer be with us, the positive change he created will never be forgotten.

MAKE SOIL, NOT SMOKE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Environmental Protection Agency honors students across the country for outstanding leadership and environmental achievements with the President's Environmental Youth Awards. Among this year's winners is Mr. Anderson's first grade class in Okanogan, Washington.

The students at Virginia Grainger Elementary School were recognized for their project titled "Make Soil Not Smoke." The class created a school garden and learned about the benefits of composting leaves instead of burning them. They decided to use their project to spread awareness about the benefits of composting and the harmful effects of burning leaves.

Their project is important to a community that has experienced firsthand the destruction of wildfires. As excitement for the project grew, the community joined in by donating compost materials, garden tools, and worms for vermicomposting.

In one year, Mr. Anderson's students have created over 200 cubic yards of garden compost. They use demonstrations, a parade float, and booths at State fairs and farmers markets to continue spreading awareness.

Please join me in recognizing the outstanding work the Make Soil Not Smoke group is doing for their community.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I just saw a report that most minimum wage workers need 2½ full-time jobs to afford a one-bedroom apartment.

Many of us can't imagine deciding between paying rent and buying food, but that is exactly the choice that far too many Americans face. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, helps by providing a small benefit so families don't go hungry. But the farm bill that the House Republicans have passed cuts SNAP by \$23 billion.

Let's remember, most people on SNAP who can work, do work.

Let's also remember that real farmers rely on the farm bill. The longer Republicans try to use it for entitlement reform, the longer we hurt those farmers.

The American people made their priorities clear at the ballot box: They want to create opportunity and possibility for all our families.

Here is a radical idea: Let's listen to them. Let's follow the lead of Senate Republicans and Democrats who worked together on a farm bill that helps farmers and maintains SNAP. And let's end hunger now.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next week, we will kick off the holiday season with Thanksgiving and reflect on all that we are thankful for in our lives. It also marks the start of the very busy holiday shopping season.

In an effort to support local shops that make our communities strong, Small Business Saturday takes place on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to encourage people to shop small and bring more holiday shopping to small businesses. On this day, we celebrate and support small businesses and all that they do for our local communities.

There are more than 30 million small businesses in the United States that have created 8.4 million jobs in the last two decades.

Mr. Speaker, small, locally owned businesses employ our neighbors and contribute to the fabric of our local communities.

The Shop Small movement truly is about supporting our mom-and-pop shops. Whether it is a cup of coffee from a local spot or a unique gift for a loved one, everyone has an opportunity to join in and support independent business owners on Small Business Saturday.

HONORING EMILY REESE

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Emily Reese, a cherished Nevanan, a loving mother of three, and a fearless healthcare advocate who worked tirelessly to put others before herself.

Emily devoted her last year of life to fighting for what she believed in: protecting access to quality, affordable healthcare for those who need it most. Her work touched many lives, including my own.

Emily's compassion and determination knew no boundaries, and it is those qualities that made her a powerful voice in our community.

As we pay tribute to her life, let us never forget to find strength in her

words: live life, love life, and impact others.

DISASTER RELIEF

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House, the Senate, and the administration to adopt a disaster relief bill before December 7.

In recent months, we have witnessed catastrophes that have struck our Nation coast to coast, from wildfires across California, flooding in the Carolinas, and the incredible loss of agriculture in my home State of Georgia from Hurricane Michael.

Agriculture is the largest and oldest economic driver in the State of Georgia. The past few years, farmers have faced low commodity prices, unfair trade practices from foreign countries, labor shortages, and low crop yields that have created a strain on their businesses. They have also hurt the surrounding rural economies. Hurricane Michael made all of these past losses pale in comparison.

Following the storm, the likes of which Georgia has not seen in over a century, President Trump and Vice President PENCE visited my district and heard firsthand from farmers about how they went from having the best crops to no crops in a matter of hours. This disaster has been heartbreaking, and without additional Federal assistance, it will break the back of Georgia's rural economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue; this is an American issue. I call on this Chamber to act now to help these farmers and others across our great Nation who are struggling with the aftermath of these disasters.

HONORING DOLORES MCCrackEN

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory and extraordinary life of an educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, whose dedication of Pennsylvania's children made her one of Pennsylvania's most prominent voices on education advocacy, policy, and practices.

Dolores McCracken, who served as president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, passed away on November 13 following her courageous battle with cancer. Dolores spent the past two decades as a passionate activist for improved public education, working to promote PSEA initiatives on the Federal, State, and local levels.

Dolores' professional contributions to Pennsylvania education are impactful and incredibly far-reaching. She worked closely with numerous statewide partners and served on the

board of directors at the Keystone Research Center, the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, and the Council Rock Education Foundation. She also served as president of the Churchville Elementary Home and School Association.

For Dolores, it always came down to improving the lives of our community's children and their families. She firmly believed that every child, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, deserves the best education in the world.

A paralegal by trade, Dolores is survived by her husband, Jack Jr.; her children, Jack III and Kristin; and her grandchildren, Dylan, Reese, Paige, and Logan. May they take comfort in knowing Dolores' life work will carry on in our students' lives for generations. Dolores McCracken is our children's hero.

□ 0915

MANAGE OUR WOLVES ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1142, I call up the bill (H.R. 6784) to provide for removal of the gray wolf in the contiguous 48 States from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife published under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK). Pursuant to House Resolution 1142, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6784

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Manage our Wolves Act".

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR GRAY WOLVES IN WYOMING AND WESTERN GREAT LAKES.

(a) GRAY WOLVES IN WYOMING.—The final rule published on September 10, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 55530), that was reinstated on March 3, 2017, by the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (No. 14–5300) and further republished on May 1, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 20284), that reinstates the removal of Federal protections for the gray wolf in Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and this subsection, shall not be subject to judicial review.

(b) GRAY WOLVES IN WESTERN GREAT LAKES.—Before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue the final rule published on December 28, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 81666), without regard to any other provision of statute or regulation that applies to issuance of such rule. Such reissuance (including this subsection) shall not be subject to judicial review.

SEC. 3. REMOVAL OF FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR GRAY WOLVES RANGE-WIDE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of fiscal year 2019, and except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall issue a rule to remove the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in each of the 48 contiguous States of the United States and the District of Columbia from the List of Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife in section 17.11 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to any other provision of statute or regulation that applies to issuance of such rule.

(b) LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Such issuance (including this section)—

(1) shall not be subject to judicial review; and

(2) shall not affect the inclusion of the subspecies classified as the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) of the species gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in such list.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debated for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill would accomplish what multiple administrations have been attempting to do for over a decade by delisting a species the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has deemed recovered under the Endangered Species Act. It also empowers the States to take a larger role in managing the species population.

The gray wolf has been protected in its original habitat in the western Great Lakes region under the Endangered Species Act since 1974. Beginning in 1994, the Federal Government began introducing species to the Western U.S. by relocating wolves from Canada and releasing them in Western States.

The reintroduced wolf population in the West expanded more quickly than many had anticipated, and as a result, Western States began to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service to better manage the species. This successful State and Federal cooperation led to the Fish and Wildlife Service's first attempt to delist the species under the Endangered Species Act in 2009. Litigation activists struck back, challenging the agency's delisting decision and halting further agency action at that time.

In 2014, the Fish and Wildlife Service, after noting an even greater increase in species population, attempted to once again delist the gray wolf. Just as before, litigants immediately challenged the agency's decision. That same year, gray wolves in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes region were relisted by court order, citing inadequate State management plans. This 2014 order was appealed, and in March of last year, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed

the relisting decision for the gray wolf, but in Wyoming only.

This underscores the extent to which the Fish and Wildlife Service has been hamstrung in implementing the objectives of the Endangered Species Act. Rather than spending its limited resources protecting vulnerable species, litigation activists have forced the agency to continuously defend every action.

In this case, despite scientific evidence collected under multiple administrations from both sides of the aisle showing that the gray wolf populations have recovered and thrived, the agency remains bogged down in costly, never-ending litigation. We should be celebrating this ESA victory instead of moving on to the next challenge.

This bill would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from wasting further resources in responding to environmental lawfare by affirming its previous rules to delist the gray wolf and shielding these rules from further review.

Finally, the bill seeks to empower the States to manage their individual gray wolf populations by directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue a rule to delist the gray wolf in each of the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. To ensure that States are provided certainty when developing State management plans, this bill would also exempt the delisting system from judicial review.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the commonsense bill that we have here, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the bill today.

In a world full of lions and tigers entertaining the masses, have you ever seen a wolf in the circus? If you love your dog, thank a wolf.

There is a line of poetry that says: "A wolf eats sheep but now and then; Ten thousands are devour'd by men."

Wolves are historic and vital keystone predators that have been hunted to near extinction in the contiguous United States. After being formerly designated as endangered and protected under the Endangered Species Act, wolf populations began to rise. However, they still inhabit just a fraction of their historic range, and continued protection under the Endangered Species Act is necessary. Instead, H.R. 6784 strips the protections that have allowed the species to begin to recover.

Prior to widespread human settlement, hundreds of thousands of gray wolves roamed North America. They could be found from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast. Today, sadly, the farthest east they can be found is in Michigan.

Some of my colleagues might know that I would love to see the gray wolves in Virginia some day, but for now, it is important that we continue to protect the fewer than 6,000 that we have left in the lower 48.